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General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 126 (y)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you a declaration by the Heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member States on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of CIS, signed on 16 September 2016 in Bishkek during the summit of CIS countries (see annex).

As Kyrgyzstan was the CIS Chair country in 2016, I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 126 (y).

(*Signed*) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations

17-15527 (E) 130917 130917

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Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Commonwealth of Independent States

Council of Heads of State

Decision of 16 September 2016 concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Bishkek

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States has decided:

1. To adopt the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States (see annex).

2. To disseminate the text of this Declaration in the media of CIS member States.

3. To entrust the Kyrgyz Republic, as the State holding the presidency of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with circulating the text of the aforementioned statement at the United Nations and other international organizations.

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic
A. Atambaev

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia
S. Sargsyan

On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan
I. Aliyev
with a dissenting opinion

On behalf of the Republic of Belarus
A. Lukashenko

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbayev

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova
P. Filip
Prime Minister
with a dissenting opinion

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan
E. Rahmon

On behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan
A. Kamilov
Minister for Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the Russian Federation
V. Putin

On behalf of Turkmenistan
G. Berdimuhamedov

On behalf of Ukraine

Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States

We, the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in adopting this Declaration expressing appreciation for the activities of CIS over the past 25 years, make the following statement.

A quarter of a century ago, the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Alma-Ata Declaration were signed. CIS, which was formed during a period of major geopolitical change, has since then helped to tackle extremely complex issues and contributed to the development of equal political dialogue and to the establishment, on new foundations, of a mechanism for trade and economic cooperation, humanitarian partnership and cooperation in security matters.

Over time, CIS has become a unique and universal organization like no other. CIS has taken on a crucial and constructive role in the system of international relations as a result of its underlying principles of mutual trust and equity, consideration of the interests of other member States and recognition of the right of each to choose its own development model.

Representing its region as an international organization with a broad membership and mandate to coordinate multifaceted intergovernmental cooperation, CIS has become a useful and fundamental platform for achieving integration at various levels and speeds for the parties concerned.

We are strongly committed to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and also to the goals and objectives contained in the CIS Concept for Further Development, and we believe that there is a need to connect all existing and new areas of cooperation in a mutually beneficial way.

The practice established over the years of our collaboration of supporting each other's initiatives in international bodies has been proof of the authenticity of our partnership and has demonstrated the effectiveness of a collective approach to promoting the mutually beneficial interests of CIS States in international forums.

Reaffirming our common aspiration to build competitive national economies and steadfastly improve the well-being of member States' citizens, we intend to increase cooperation in economic, financial, energy, transport and other fields and to continue to strive to set standards for the free movement of goods and services throughout the CIS region. In this regard, we appreciate the implementation of the Treaty on a Free Trade Area, which is instrumental in bringing about closer collaboration that is capable of producing the greatest possible economic impact.

Considering that deepening humanitarian relations is a key factor in sustainable development, in future we will continue in every way possible to fully support mutually enriching dialogue among cultures and to enhance partnerships in education, science, health care, migration, information, youth cooperation, physical culture, sport and tourism.

The development of relationships and mutually beneficial cooperation with other regional and international organizations, especially within the United Nations system, is important for resolving the challenges faced by CIS.

We note with concern that in various regions of the world there are still serious hotbeds of instability with a tendency to spread further afield and increase in intensity. We express our collective determination to tailor cooperation within CIS

to preventing and effectively countering current challenges and threats, and we confirm our readiness to work with interested States and international organizations, with the United Nations playing a central role.

In view of the rapid succession of events in the world, the complicated international situation and the growing challenges and threats to the international community, we express our interest in adapting CIS to the realities of today. This should result in CIS being more effective and having greater authority on the international stage and strengthen integration between its member States.

Reaffirming our commitment to the principle of continuity, with the aim in the future of building on the 25-year experience of CIS and increasing the current level of multilateral cooperation between member States, and viewing CIS as the main platform for dialogue and interaction between our countries, we express our intention to cooperate more effectively with the aim of achieving peace, good-neighbourliness and progress throughout the CIS region.

Dissenting opinion of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Regarding the second paragraph of the Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

The Republic of Azerbaijan does not recognize the international legal personality of CIS and its bodies, or their relations with international entities.

The Republic of Azerbaijan views intergovernmental cooperation within CIS as taking place among interested States and does not accept the aims for the economic and political integration of an association of CIS member States.

The Republic of Azerbaijan considers acts of aggression by one CIS member State against another to be unacceptable.

The Republic of Azerbaijan believes that in addition to collaboration on security, crime prevention, the maintenance and strengthening of international security and stability and the countering of new challenges and threats, measures must also be taken against separatism, which is the main cause of armed conflicts.

Given the ineffectiveness of the work of CIS in settling armed conflicts in CIS member States, the Republic of Azerbaijan considers an important condition for the organization's development to be the swift settlement of existing armed conflicts on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the integrity of State borders.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is not a party to the Treaty on a Free Trade Area of 18 October 2011.

I. **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Dissenting opinion of the Republic of Moldova

While it has signed the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of CIS, the Republic of Moldova at the same time considers that the document does not fully and objectively reflect problems which have emerged over that period of time as regards the development of cooperation

within the organization and it does not inspire confidence about the prospects of the organization becoming more effective in its work.

Unfortunately, we cannot help but notice that CIS has not managed to fully implement the objectives of establishing a free trade zone, preventing the emergence of conflicts within the region and helping to resolve them, and finding solutions to other urgent issues facing CIS.

Nevertheless, the Republic of Moldova confirms its interest in further participation in the work of CIS and in enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation within the organization.

P. Filip
Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

United Nations A/71/1036

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 September 2017

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you a declaration by the Heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member States on further efforts to counter international terrorism, signed on 16 September 2016 in Bishkek during the summit of CIS countries (see annex).

As Kyrgyzstan was the CIS Chair country in 2016, I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan
to the United Nations

17-15713 (E) 140917 140917

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Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Decision of 16 September 2016 concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism

Bishkek

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States has decided:

1. To adopt the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism (attached).

2. To disseminate the text of this Declaration in the media of CIS member States.

3. To entrust the Kyrgyz Republic, as the State holding the presidency of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with circulating the text of the aforementioned statement at the United Nations and other international organizations.

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic
A. Atambaev

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia
S. Sargsyan

On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan
I. Aliyev
with a dissenting opinion

On behalf of the Republic of Belarus
A. Lukashenko

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbayev

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova
P. Filip
Prime Minister

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan
E. Rahmon

On behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan
A. Kamilov
Minister for Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the Russian Federation
V. Putin

On behalf of Turkmenistan

On behalf of Ukraine

Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism

We, the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in adopting this Declaration note with deep concern the growing threat of terrorism to international peace and to the security and sovereignty of States.

We declare our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasize that no acts of terrorism can be justified on ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or other grounds. Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We believe that the killing of civilians, the wanton destruction by terrorists of historical and cultural heritage sites and the desecration of religious sites are incompatible with the norms of morality, humanism and spirituality.

Convinced of the need to consolidate the efforts of the entire international community in order to combat terrorism effectively, we express our solidarity with multilateral counter-terrorism efforts and support the establishment of a broad counter-terrorism coalition under the auspices of the United Nations on the basis of the norms and principles of international law. We call upon all States to comply fully with the relevant Security Council resolutions and provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and also to adopt the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

We consider it a priority to resolutely prevent the activities of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has defied our civilization and triggered brutal bloodshed in many countries and, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2249 (2015), constitutes a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security.

We emphasize the importance of compliance with the principles and norms of international law during counter-terrorism activities, and respect for the security interests of States confronted with the threat of terrorist organizations.

We acknowledge the growing security threats in the world related to increased activity by terrorist organizations and resulting in a spike in tension on the boundaries of CIS. We believe that enhancing cooperation within existing regional structures and broadening counter-terrorism cooperation among States at the political level, and at the level of the special services and relevant ministries and departments, will help to maintain stability in the territories of CIS member States.

We attach great importance to comprehensive measures to counter the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology, including by preventing terrorist and extremist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including on the Internet; consistently stepping up cooperation for the detection and suppression of terrorism; and carrying out coordinated measures with regard to individuals who return to CIS member States after taking part in the actions and activities of international terrorist organizations as foreign terrorist fighters. We are convinced that, in order to bolster the immunity of individuals to radical ideas, it is important for civic structures, the media and religious communities to have the capacity to supplement efforts by the State.

We are convinced that effective counter-terrorism is possible only if the sources of its financing are reliably cut off, as required by pertinent Security Council resolutions and international standards of the Financial Action Task Force.

In the context of the comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), we support the earliest possible start of joint efforts to identify specific States, individuals and entities with economic ties to ISIL and other terrorist groups, with the aim of preventing their criminal activities.

We oppose support for unconstitutional and illegal actions which might lead to the erosion of statehood in any country.

We reaffirm our common resolve to harness the potential of relevant CIS bodies to take effective action against international terrorism.

We also consider it necessary to develop synergies in other multilateral forums and bilaterally to ensure timely prevention and a robust response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Dissenting opinion of the Republic of Azerbaijan

With regard to the second paragraph of the Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the continuation of joint efforts to counter international terrorism:

The Republic of Azerbaijan believes that in addition to collaboration on countering international terrorism, serious measures must also be taken to tackle separatism, which is a threat not only to peace and security, but also to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

I. **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

United Nations A/71/1037–S/2017/759

General Assembly
Security Council

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8 September 2017

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 5 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the possibility of deploying a United Nations peacekeeping operation to Donbas (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-15718 (E) 140917

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Annex to the letter dated 5 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the possibility of deploying a United Nations peacekeeping operation to Donbas

5 September 2017

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine takes note of the statement of the President of the Russian Federation on the possibility of deploying United Nations peacekeepers to Donbas, as published in the media. We are of the view that the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation can contribute to restoring peace and security in the east of Ukraine. It should also be noted, in this connection, that back in March 2015, the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, formally addressed the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council with a request to deploy, in the territory of the country, a peacekeeping operation under United Nations auspices. That letter was circulated on 2 April 2015 as a document of the Security Council (S/2015/225). Prior to that, the initiative of the President of Ukraine had been supported by the National Security and Defence Council and the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine.

The objective of such an operation would be to guarantee lasting peace in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine on the basis of the Minsk agreements and in line with the fundamental principles and norms of the Charter of the United Nations, in parallel with enhancing the capacities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Russia, the aggressor State, has since endeavoured to sabotage Ukraine's proposals and refused to consider our request to the Security Council; it even claimed, as was the case in June 2016, that Ukraine had never addressed such a request to the Security Council.

Ukraine's stance in this regard has always been clear: any international peacekeeping presence should be deployed upon agreement of and after exhaustive consultations with the Ukrainian side, provide for the removal of all occupation forces and mercenaries as well as their weaponry from the territory of Ukraine and ensure reliable control over the Ukrainian-Russian border in order to prevent Russian military, arms, equipment and mercenaries from getting into the territory of Ukraine. In case a decision is taken to deploy a peacekeeping operation, any presence of military or other personnel of the aggressor State in the territory of Ukraine under the guise of peacekeepers should be ruled out, as it is inconsistent with the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping. Similarly out of the question is getting an agreement to deploy a peacekeeping operation from illegal armed groups in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine that are supported, financed and equipped by the Russian Federation.

The statement of the President of the Russian Federation, as published in the media, is additional evidence of the efforts of Russia, as a party to the conflict, to present the aggression as an internal Ukrainian conflict and to distort the very idea and purposes of such a peacekeeping operation; this will not serve its main objective, namely to establish lasting peace in Donbas and restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

At the same time, Ukraine continues to consistently support the initiative to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation to Donbas and is ready for further work on this issue. In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations has been tasked with conducting consultations with the members of the Security Council.

It is also our position that consistent adherence by the Russian side to the regime of a lasting and complete ceasefire, as agreed at the end of August and in connection with the start of the school year, should create a favourable precondition for starting a dialogue on deploying a peacekeeping operation to Donbas.